

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-23 and 62 are currently pending in this patent application.

The Examiner rejects claims 1-23 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. The Examiner asserts that the claims do not distinguish components (b) and (c) because a cationic acrylic polymer can serve as both (b) and (c). Applicants submit that when the claims are interpreted in accordance with the disclosure, the disclosure provides guidance for the selection of cationic acrylic polymer and a dye fixative (see page 6, line 30 through page 10, line 13 and page 10, line 14 through page 11, line 10 of the Specification, respectively).

The Examiner rejects claims 1-23 and 62 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,866,383B2 (Naik et al.) in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,656,545B1 (Schliesman et al.). The Examiner asserts that the Naik et al. reference is directed to ink-receptive compositions comprising filler, a binder and a cationic polymer, wherein the composition when coated on a substrate forms an ink-receptive coating. Further, the Schliesman et al. reference is an analogous field of coating composition for an inkjet recording medium comprising a pigment, binder and a cationic fixing agent, wherein a low pH value of from 4.5 to 7.5 is useful. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

Applicants submit that the ink-receptive composition described in the Naik et al. reference contains an absorbent material to remove the liquid of the ink-jet ink. Thus, the composition disclosed in the Naik et al. reference requires the presence of a filler (see Abstract). The filler is a porous, water-swellaable material, such as silica, that increases the opacity and/or modifies the porosity of the coated substrate. The filler has the ability to swell and thus, increase the ink-absorbability of the composition. Applicants further submit that the Schliesman et al. reference is also directed to an "absorptive silica pigment"-containing coating composition.

Applicants submit that the claimed invention is distinguished from the cited references taken either alone or in combination. The claimed invention is directed to a coating composition that renders a microporous substrate, such as an ink-jet printable substrate, substantially water-resistant. The Naik et al. and Schliesman et al. references do not disclose nor suggest the use of the polyurethane dispersion in combination with a dye fixative and acrylic polymer for the purpose of rendering a microporous substrate substantially water-resistant. Further, there would be no motivation for one having ordinary skill in the art to modify the Naik et al. reference in view of the Schliesman et al. reference. And, moreover, the combination of the pH range disclosed in Schliesman et al. with the composition disclosed in Naik et al. would still not render the claimed invention obvious. Thus, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1-23 and 62 should not be rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a).

In conclusion, based on the foregoing, Applicants submit that claims 1-23 and 62 are in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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